



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equitation for the Leisure Industry

Unit code: DP1T 34

Unit purpose: The aims of this Unit are to develop the candidate's skills required to be competent to take out a ride, a short trek or a hack. They will demonstrate that they are a sensible, safe person who is able to communicate with and help first time riders and other staff.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate riding a sensible horse on the public highway or in the countryside.
- 2 Outline knowledge of good practice and relevant legislation.
- 3 Prepare and demonstrate the taking out of a ride, a short trek or a hack.

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Candidates require prior experience of riding. This may be evidenced by the National Unit E8WJ 10 *Equitation 1*, BHS Stage 2 or relevant vocational experience.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication*, *Problem Solving* and *Working with Others* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

This Unit is part of the Optional section of the HNC and HND in Equine Studies. It is a free-standing Unit and may be used for the purposes of continuing professional development.

Assessment: This Unit should be assessed by two practical assignments and a series of extended response questions.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equitation for the Leisure Industry

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Demonstrate riding a sensible horse on the public highway or in the countryside

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Mounting and dismounting correctly
- ◆ Adjusting stirrups and girth when mounted
- ◆ How to give and receive a leg up
- ◆ Secure position in the saddle when riding at walk, trot and canter
- ◆ Riding with an appropriate rein length and with reins in one hand
- ◆ How to turn, circle, halt and stand still correctly
- ◆ How to negotiate small natural obstacles
- ◆ How to ride up and down hills correctly
- ◆ How to open and shut gates
- ◆ How to ride and lead a horse
- ◆ How to ride correctly on the public highway
- ◆ All relevant Health and Safety requirements

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ can ride sensible horses on the public highway and over various terrains:
 - with due regard to current Health and Safety legislation.
 - with a secure position
 - forward at the correct speed for each gait and terrain
 - with an appropriate rein length
 - reins in one hand whilst leading a horse

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome should be assessed in the form of a practical assignment riding two horses — one on the public highway and one over various terrains.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equitation for the Leisure Industry

Outcome 2

Outline knowledge of good practice and relevant legislation

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ All relevant Health and Safety requirements to include:
 - risk assessments
 - accident procedures
 - accident reports
 - RIDDOR
 - basic First Aid for humans and horses
- ◆ The Country Code
- ◆ Access legislation
- ◆ Liaison with landowners
- ◆ Suitability of horses for a range of clients
- ◆ Work loads for horses and how to calculate work load on horses
- ◆ Communication Skills
- ◆ Centres Complaints procedure

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ identify Health and Safety legislation and good practice
- ◆ describe basic First Aid for humans and horses
- ◆ describe the Country Code and Access legislation
- ◆ assess horses for suitability for a range of clients
- ◆ assess work loads for horses
- ◆ communicate effectively with riders

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome should be assessed in the form of extended response questions and should include:

- ◆ Health and Safety before, during and after a trek
- ◆ The Country Code
- ◆ The importance of communication

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equitation for the Leisure Industry

Outcome 3

Prepare and demonstrate the taking out of a ride, a short trek or a hack

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Allocation of riders and horses
- ◆ Basic instructions and assessment of abilities
- ◆ Managing the ride-out
- ◆ Debriefing and recording

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ demonstrate the allocation of horses to riders
- ◆ demonstrate basic instruction and assessment of riders
- ◆ demonstrate effective management and control of the ride
- ◆ justify debriefing and recording of the ride out

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome should be assessed in the form of a practical assignment preparing for and taking out a group of 2–5 persons for a period of 2 hours.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DP1T 34

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equitation for the Leisure Industry

Superclass category: MH

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History of changes:

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equitation for the Leisure Industry

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is primarily intended for candidates who plan to embark on a career in the riding school or trekking sectors of the industry. The aims are to develop the candidate's skills to be competent to take out a ride, a short trek or a hack. By teaching this Unit it is anticipated that the candidate should achieve the level of competence of someone who can ride to the specified level, be competent to prepare for and take out a short ride or trek. They will need to show they are a sensible, safe person who is able to communicate with and help riders of all standards and other staff.

- 1 Candidates will receive instruction on riding a sensible horse on the public highway or in the countryside including:

- Adjusting stirrups and girth when mounted
- Giving and receiving a leg up
- Showing a secure position in the saddle when riding at walk, trot and canter
- Riding with an appropriate rein length and with reins in one hand
- How to turn, circle, halt and stand still correctly
- How to negotiate small natural obstacles
- How to ride up and down hills correctly
- How to open and shut gates
- How to ride and lead a horse
- How to ride correctly on the public highway

This will enable them to develop the competence required to take out a group of riders.

- 2 Candidates will receive instruction highlighting the requirements of good practice, Health and Safety legislation, basic first aid for horses and humans, welfare and suitability of horses, riding in the countryside and on the public highway, briefing and communication between riders and assistant/s. Communication skills would include:

- ◆ Greeting clients in a pleasant, friendly manner, and make them feel at home
- ◆ The ability to put people at ease as quickly as possible
- ◆ Ensuring that clients needs are dealt with by the appropriate member of staff
- ◆ An ability to maintain a firm but friendly attitude to all riders even in stressful conditions
- ◆ How to keep calm under difficulties, and not react adversely to riders who may have been tiresome
- ◆ Show an ability to answer questions clearly and point out mistakes with tact
- ◆ Know how to hide irritation and appear at all times patient and helpful

Centres complaints procedure should cover how to pass on complaints and to whom. This Outcome should also cover how to calculate trek charges and discounts.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equitation for the Leisure Industry

- 3 Candidates will receive instruction on how to prepare for and take out a ride, a short trek or a hack. This will cover all initial pre-trek checks including the set-up and allocation of horses to riders; awareness of useful occupations. Continuing to the structure of a short trek including the checking of tack for safety and correct fit, before mounting riders and basic instruction. It will also include communication with riders and other staff and dealing with broken tack and lame animals.

The teaching of this Outcome should cover the following points:

- ◆ How to set up rides in accordance with the experience and competence of the riders
- ◆ The importance of noting useful occupations of riders (eg doctors/nurses) at the outset, in case of emergencies
- ◆ Checking tack for safety and correct fit before mounting riders
- ◆ How to hold a horse for mounting/dismounting
- ◆ Recognising safe clothing for first-time riders
- ◆ The reasons for safe clothing for first-time riders
- ◆ Introduction of escorting staff to riders
- ◆ Basic instruction and assessment of abilities during short initial session in enclosed area including:
 - How to mount and dismount correctly
 - How to lengthen and shorten reins
 - How to move the horse on, turn and increase speed, decrease speed, and stop
- ◆ Riding the line and conversing with riders
- ◆ How to deal with 'difficult' riders
- ◆ Dealing with broken tack and lame animals
- ◆ Keeping discipline in a diplomatic way
- ◆ Maintaining a happy atmosphere during the ride, trek or hack and on return
- ◆ Dismounting riders
- ◆ Reporting on trek, ride or hack to senior staff
- ◆ All relevant Health and Safety requirements

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit can be delivered as a free-standing Unit or as part of a Group Award.

Visits to riding schools and trekking centres should be carried out as appropriate and contact with the general public would be beneficial.

Outcome 2 could be covered by a project but Outcomes 1 and 3 would require practical assessment supplemented by oral questioning.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication*, *Problem Solving* and *Working with Others* at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equitation for the Leisure Industry

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by distance learning. However, it would require planning by the centre to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of the candidate evidence.

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Equine Studies: Equitation for the Leisure Industry

This Unit is designed to enable you to develop skills associated with the riding school and trekking leisure industry. Areas that will be covered will be riding skills to an appropriate level, the ability to prepare for and take out a short trek or ride, knowledge of the legal and welfare requirements in addition to good communication skills.

On completion of this Unit you will be expected to show that you can ride to the level, be able to prepare for and take out a short ride or trek including the allocation of riders to horses, basic instruction and show good communication skills with clients and other members of staff, and know the good practice and legal requirements needed to take out a ride, including a knowledge of the Highway Code and the Country Code.

On completion of the Unit you should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate riding a sensible horse on the public highway or in the countryside.
- 2 Outline knowledge of good practice and relevant legislation.
- 3 Prepare and demonstrate the taking out of a ride, a short trek or a hack.

In **Outcome 1** you will learn how to demonstrate your Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that you can ride sensible horses on the public highway and over various terrains with due regard to current Health & Safety legislation.

In **Outcome 2** you will learn how to demonstrate your knowledge by showing that you understand and/or can deal with:

- ◆ Health and Safety legislation and good practice
- ◆ Basic First Aid for humans and horses
- ◆ The Country Code and Access legislation
- ◆ Assess horses for suitability for a range of clients
- ◆ Work loads for horses
- ◆ Communication with riders

In **Outcome 3** you will learn how to demonstrate your Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that you can:

- ◆ Demonstrate the allocation of horses to riders
- ◆ Demonstrate basic instruction and assessment of riders
- ◆ Demonstrate effective management and control of the ride
- ◆ Justify debriefing and recording of the ride out